

**COUNCIL WORK SESSION
CITY OF WATERTOWN
July 12, 2010
7:00 P.M.**

MAYOR JEFFREY E. GRAHAM PRESIDING

PRESENT: **COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS
COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER, JR.
COUNCIL MEMBER TERESA R. MACALUSO
COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH
MAYOR GRAHAM**

ALSO PRESENT: **MARY M. CORRIVEAU, CITY MANAGER**

City Staff Present: Kurt Hauk, Ken Mix, Jim Mills and Matt Owen

Mayor Graham opened the work session.

Lachenauer Plaza Fountain

Carrie Robertson, North Country Arts Council, addressed the chair concerning the designs proposed for the painting of the fountain. She advised that the area only lends itself to a quick view as motorists go by. The view of the design on the computer screen is different than a quick view of the actual fountain. She also advised that the artist who created the design for the vinyl has indicated that it could also be done in another medium.

Council Member Burns commented that several people had indicated to her that they liked the design which was on the vinyl. She remarked that she was glad that the artist could do the design in a different medium if it was selected. She asked if the water feature on the top of the fountain was supposed to be indicative of the water wheel, which was so prominent in the history of the City.

Mayor Graham remarked that the hedges in that area need to be taken care of as they tend to serve as trash collectors when the wind blows.

Council Member Butler asked which design received the strongest support.

Mrs. Robertson indicated that an informal poll of 700 people indicated that designs A and L were voted for.

Council Member Smith referred to the design which depicts historic scenes and asked if portions of the designs could be used.

Mrs. Robertson indicated that they could be.

Main Street West, Parking Changes

Mr. Hauk reviewed the recommended changes to the parking for the eastbound lanes of West Main Street at the intersection with the Court Street Bridge. He explained that the proposal is to restrict parking and standing for a distance of 695' west from the intersection with the bridge on the south side of W. Main. This would alleviate a hazardous condition that occurs during times of heavy traffic. The restriction would be in effect from 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. daily.

Council Member Macaluso remarked that this would hurt the Korean restaurant's business.

Mr. Hauk indicated that they are a take-out restaurant and there is some parking behind the building.

Council Member Burns asked if the bar would have enough parking to comply if they were a new business today. She remarked that she has not problem with the recommendation. However, she is concerned about hurting the Korean restaurant's business. She suggested giving them short term parking for pickup.

Mr. Hauk advised that Chief Goss feels that a 10 minute stop is too hard to enforce.

Mayor Graham asked if this proposal was a safety issue.

Mr. Hauk responded that when vehicles don't park on the sidewalk or curb, they are parking in the turning lane. He explained that a complaint was brought to Engineering by someone in DPW.

Council Member Smith remarked that this proposal will affect their take-out business and felt that there should be a pickup zone for customers.

Mr. Hauk advised that it would create a loading zone in a travel lane.

Council Member Burns asked for clarification on where the request originated.

Mr. Hauk stated that it was brought to Engineering by DPW.

Mrs. Corriveau stated that it came from staff.

Mayor Graham questioned why Council was having this discussion when there had not been a rash of accidents, public clamor or requests by property owners.

Council Member Butler commented that he is not willing to put up no parking signs and hurt someone's business.

Council Member Macaluso remarked that she wouldn't want to discourage development of the vacant building by having no parking.

Review of City Owned Property

Council reviewed the report concerning the listing of these properties.

Council recommended the following:

1. Contacting the county about purchasing city-owned property at 355 Clover St., 333 and 334 Kendall Ave. N. These parcels are near JCC and are surrounded by county owned property.
2. Not selling the city-owned property on Moulton Street.
3. 425 Court Street for property auction.
4. Mr. Tandogan offered to purchase VL-5 Water St. However, Council concurred to place parcel in auction.
5. 522 Water St. needs remediation finished before selling.
6. VL-4 and VL-6 Water St. for property auction.
7. 129 Sherman St. will transfer to Neighbors of Watertown.
8. Approach new owner of abutting property owner of VL-6 Arsenal to see if they would want to purchase this small parcel.
9. Place benches and trees in the triangle parcel of 220 Coffeen St. to create a small park setting.

Per Council Member Butler's request, staff will look to see if playgrounds can be done on some of the small city-owned vacant properties within neighborhoods.

Discussion was held on the properties which the city has tax certificates on but has not taken title to because we don't want to be in the line of title.

Mr. Mix advised that the DEC testing results indicated that there is petroleum product contamination on the site.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that the city has put these types of properties into past brownfield programs, when available.

Council concurred that the City should sell the tax sale certificates for the two Ives properties on Martin Street, Lynn Service Center property on State Street, 560 Main Street (the former Taylor Implement) and the two properties on Court Street.

Reports:

Thompson Park Conservancy Lease, Concession

Mayor Graham remarked that no one should have exclusive rights to selling at events such as the Syracuse Symphony. Discussion was held concerning city permits for vending and the fact that vendors should be allowed in the park as the roadways are city streets.

Aviary Meeting

Council members suggested meeting on Monday, July 26th with representatives from the Zoo concerning the aviary.

Mrs. Corriveau will contact Mr. Foster when he gets back from vacation.

Boards and Commissions

Mayor Graham remarked that it is very difficult to fill the positions on the Board of Assessment Review. He stated that they act as hearing officers and in retrospect, they should have continued to receive a stipend for their services. Mrs. Corriveau will contact Mrs. Cook to see if she wishes to continue to serve.

Mrs. Corriveau will review the interest sheets that have been received from individuals offering to serve on boards. In addition, an ad could be placed on Newzjunky and in the newspaper.

Meeting ended at 9:25 p.m.

Donna M. Dutton

City Clerk